

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 01830 011803Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05
HA-05 /075 W

-----077106 011805Z /70

O R 011744Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8953
INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1830

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PE
SUBJECT: TWO-DAY STRIKE OVER

REF: (A) LIMA 1803, (B) LIMA 1756

1. THE TWO-DAY STRIKE (FEB 27-28) CALLED BY THE MOSCOW-LINE
LABOR CONFEDERATION (CGTP) AND THE ULTRA LEFT (CUL) ENDED WITHOUT
SERIOUS INCIDENTS. THE STRIKE'S IMPACT PARTIALLY LIMITED
ACTIVITIES THE FIRST DAY BUT ITS DISRUPTING EFFECTS DIMINISHED
MARKEDLY THE SECOND (REFTELS). UNOFFICIAL OBSERVERS AS WELL AS THE
GOP-CONTROLLED PRESS HAVE LABELLED THE PROTEST A "FAILURE".

2. GOP MINISTRY OF INTERIOR OFFICIAL ONFIRMED TO EMBASSY THAT
ADDITIONAL VIOLENCE FROM CUL SUPPORTERS HAD NOT REPEAT NOT
MATERIALIZED DURING THE LATE AFTERNOON AND EVENING FEB 28
(PARA 2, REF A). BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING
BANKING OPERATIONS) WERE NORMAL THROUGHOUT THE LIMA-CALLAO AREA
BY THE MORNING OF MAR 1. HOWEVER, THE GUARDIA CIVIL IS KEEPING
EXTRA FORCES IN SOME OUTLYING DISTRICTS OF THE CITY AS A SECRUTITY
PRECAUTION.

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3. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED THAT EARLY FEB 17 A BUS DRIVER WAS
STRUCK BY A ROCK DURING A DEMONSTRATION ON OUTSKIRTS OF LIMA
AND WAS KILLED WHEN THE VEHICLE CRASHED. TO EMBASSY'S
KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE ONLY FATALITY OF THE TWO DAY PROTEST
STRIKE. REPORTEDLY THE GUARDIA CIVIL USED TEAR GAS IN A
CONFRONTATION WITON WITH DEMONSTRATORS IN THE LOW INCOME

SUBURB OF SAN MARTIN DE PORRAS EARLY THE MORNING OF FEB 28.
THE PRESS REPORTED TWO PERSONS INJURED IN THIS ENCOUNTER.

4. AS NOTED REF A, A LOCAL DAILY NEWSPAPER HAD REPORTED THAT
DETAINEES BY LATE FEB 27 TOTALLED 600 PERSONS. GOP SECURITY
OFFICIAL MORNING MAR 1 TOLD LOCAL EMBASSY EMPLOYEE THAT
"SEVERAL HUNDREDS" HAD BEEN DETAINED. HOWEVER, EX-AMNESTY
REP LAURA CALLER ESTIMATED ONLY ABOUT 200 PEOPLE REMAINED UNDER
DETENTION AS OF NOON MAR 1. SHE COMMENTED THAT LARGER NUMBERS
MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP BUT THOUGHT THAT MOST OF THESE WERE
HELD ONLY A FEW HOURS.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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